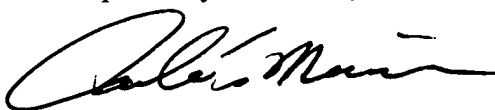


In re: Clyne et al.
Appl. No.: To be assigned
Filed: Concurrently herewith
Page 4 of 7

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification on pages 4 and 7, and have amended Claims 1, 3, 5-11 and 13-19. These amendments are non-limiting and have been made for reasons of clarification to place the application in better form for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

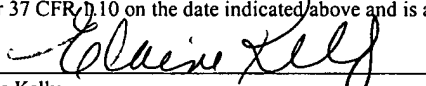


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Date of Deposit: October 31, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.


Elaine Kelly

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

In the Specification:

Please revise the second full paragraph beginning on page 4, line 33 to read as follows:

A suitable, commercially available core is manufactured by Bekaert, a Belgian company, under the trade name [Bekipor] BEKIPOR®.

Please revise the first full paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5 to read as follows:

Two stainless steel plates of length 80 mm, width 20 mm and thickness 200 μm , were coated with a chromium/nickel braze and were then positioned either side of a fibrous stainless steel core of the same length and width and having a thickness of 800 μm , supplied by Bekaert under the product name [Bekipor] BEKIPOR® NPF 90071-000. The resulting sandwich construction was clamped and heated to about 1000°C. in order to bond the metal plates to the core. The areal density of the resulting product was 5.0 kg/m², and the core fibre volume fraction was 0.19.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5-11 and 13-18 as follows:

1. (Amended) A sandwich material comprising two metal plates which are affixed to and separated by a fibrous core, [characterised in that] the core [comprises] comprising a three-dimensional porous network comprising metal fibres, wherein substantially all of the fibres are inclined at an acute angle (θ) to the plates.

3. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the metal plates and the metal fibres comprise metals [independently] selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, steel, aluminium and titanium.

5. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the plates are affixed to the fibrous core by means of a braze.

6. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any of claims 1 to 4], wherein the plates are affixed to the fibrous core by means of an adhesive.

7. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the fibres in the core are randomly orient[at]ed.

8. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein θ is less than 60° .

9. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the average diameter of the fibres is less than $500\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

10. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the total thickness of the material is $0.5\text{mm} - 1\text{ cm}$.

11. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the fibres occupy 5-50 volume% of the core.

13. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the core additionally comprises non-metallic fibres.

14. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein the fibrous core additionally comprises a polymer matrix.

15. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a sandwich material as defined in claim 1 [any of claims 1 to 14], comprising the step of affixing two metal plates to either side of a fibrous core.

16. (Amended) A welded material comprising a sandwich material as defined in claim 1 [any of claims 1 to 14] welded to a substrate.

17. (Amended) A vehicle part comprising a sandwich material as defined in claim 1 [any of claims 1 to 14].

18. (Amended) A vehicle part according to claim 17, which is selected from the group consisting of spoilers, panels and roofs.

19. (Amended) A vehicle comprising a vehicle part as defined in claim 17 [or claim 18].

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